

House Clerk's Office
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Baton Rouge, LA 70804
(225) 342-7259



INVOICE

TO: Robert Edwin Burns
4155 Essen Lane
Apartment 284
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

DATE: 01/26/2024

RE: **Public records request pertaining to HB No. 17 (2021 R.S.) - Rep. Edmonds**

Printed Documents (53 pages, \$.25 each)	\$13.25
Shipping Cost:	
Postage	\$3.55

TOTAL: \$ 16.80

Please make check payable to Louisiana House of Representatives

Check/Money Order #

0001454292

Date:

2/6/24

Received By:

K. Jogleman

recrequest

From: LEGISuite
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 8:00 AM
To: House Fiscal Note; Edmonds, Rep. Rick (Chamber Laptop); Becnel, Sadie; LeLeux, Katie; Weinman, Stephanie
Subject: FN - 21RS_HB54_ORG

Fiscal Note - HB54 Original has been received.

It can be read at <http://www.legis.state.la.us/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1212672>

The author is Edmonds

The drafter is Becnel, Sadie

recrequest

From: Miguez, Rep. Blake (District Office)
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 12:23 PM
To: Amedee, Rep. Beryl (Chamber Laptop); Bacala, Rep. Tony (Chamber Laptop); Bagley, Rep. Larry (Chamber Laptop); Beaulieu, Rep. Beau (Chamber Laptop); Bishop, Rep. Stuart (Chamber Laptop); Bourriaque, Rep. Ryan (Chamber Laptop); Butler, Rep. Rhonda (Chamber Laptop); Carrier, Rep. Dewith (Chamber Laptop); Coussan, Rep. Jean-Paul (Chamber Laptop); Crews, Rep. Raymond (Chamber Laptop); Davis, Rep. Paula (Chamber Laptop); Deshotel, Rep. Daryl (Chamber Laptop); DeVillier, Rep. Phillip (Chamber Laptop); DuBuisson, Rep. Mary (Chamber Laptop); Echols, Rep. Michael (Chamber Laptop); Edmonds, Rep. Rick (Chamber Laptop); Edmonston, Rep. Kathy (Chamber Laptop); Emerson, Rep. Julie (Chamber Laptop); Farnum, Rep. Les (Chamber Laptop); Firment, Rep. Gabe (Chamber Laptop); Fontenot, Rep. Bryan (Chamber Laptop); Freiberg, Rep. Barbara (Chamber Laptop); Frieman, Rep. Larry (Chamber Laptop); Gadberry, Rep. Foy (Chamber Laptop); Garofalo, Rep. Ray (Chamber Laptop); Geymann, Rep. (Chamber Laptop); Goudeau, Rep. Jonathan (Chamber Laptop); Harris, Rep. Lance (Chamber Laptop); Hilferty, Rep. Stephanie (Chamber Laptop); Hodges, Rep. Valarie (Chamber Laptop); Hollis, Rep. Paul (Chamber Laptop); Horton, Rep. Dodie (Chamber Laptop); Huval, Rep. Michael (Chamber Laptop); Illg, Rep. John (Chamber Laptop); Ivey, Rep. Barry (Chamber Laptop); Johnson, Rep. Mike (Chamber Laptop); Kerner, Rep. Timothy (Chamber Laptop); Mack, Rep. Sherman (Chamber Laptop); Magee, Rep. Tanner (Chamber Laptop); McCormick, Rep. Danny (Chamber Laptop); McFarland, Rep. Jack (Chamber Laptop); McKnight, Rep. Scott (Chamber Laptop); McMahan, Rep. Wayne (Chamber Laptop); Miguez, Rep. Blake (Chamber Laptop); Miller, Rep. Greg (Chamber Laptop); Mincey, Rep. Buddy (Chamber Laptop); Muscarello, Rep. Nicholas (Chamber Laptop); Nelson, Rep. Richard (Chamber Laptop); Orgeron, Rep. Joseph (Chamber Laptop); Owen, Rep. Bob (Chamber Laptop); Owen, Rep. Charles (Chamber Laptop); Pressly, Rep. Thomas (Chamber Laptop); Riser, Rep. Neil (Chamber Laptop); Romero, Rep. Troy (Chamber Laptop); Schamerhorn, Rep. Rodney (Chamber Laptop); Schexnayder, Rep. Clay (Chamber Laptop); Seabaugh, Rep. Alan (Chamber Laptop); St. Blanc, Rep. Vincent (Chamber Laptop); Stagni, Rep. Joseph (Chamber Laptop); Stefanski, Rep. John (Chamber Laptop); Tarver, Rep. Phillip (Chamber Laptop); Thomas, Rep. Polly (Chamber Laptop); Turner, Rep. Christopher (Chamber Laptop); Villio, Rep. (Chamber Laptop); Wheat, Rep. Bill (Chamber Laptop); Wright, Rep. Mark (Chamber Laptop); Zeringue, Rep. Jerome (Chamber Laptop); Amedee, Rep. Beryl (District Office); Bacala, Rep. Tony (District Office); Bagley, Rep. Larry (District Office); Beaulieu, Rep. Beau (District Office); Bishop, Rep. Stuart (District Office); Bourriaque, Rep. Ryan (District Office); Butler, Rep. Rhonda (District Office); Carrier, Rep. Dewith (District Office); Coussan, Rep. Jean-Paul (District Office); Crews, Rep. Raymond (District Office); Davis, Rep. Paula (District Office); Deshotel, Rep. Daryl (District Office); DeVillier, Rep. Phillip (District Office); DuBuisson, Rep. Mary (District Office); Echols, Rep. Michael (District Office); Edmonds, Rep. Rick (District Office); Edmonston, Rep. Kathy (District Office); Emerson, Rep. Julie (District Office); Farnum, Rep. Les (District Office); Firment, Rep. Gabe (District Office); Fontenot, Rep. Bryan (District Office); Freiberg, Rep. Barbara (District Office); Frieman, Rep. Larry (District Office); Gadberry, Rep. Foy (District Office); Garofalo, Rep. Ray (District Office); Geymann, Rep. (District Office); Goudeau, Rep. Jonathan (District Office); Harris, Rep. Lance (District Office); Hilferty, Rep. Stephanie (District Office); Hodges, Rep. Valarie (District Office); Hollis, Rep. Paul (District Office); Horton, Rep. Dodie (District Office); Huval, Rep. Michael (District Office); Illg, Rep. John (District Office); Ivey, Rep. Barry (District Office); Johnson, Rep. Mike (District Office); Kerner, Rep. Timothy (District Office); Mack, Rep. Sherman (District Office); Magee, Rep. Tanner (District Office); McCormick, Rep. Danny (District Office); McFarland, Rep. Jack

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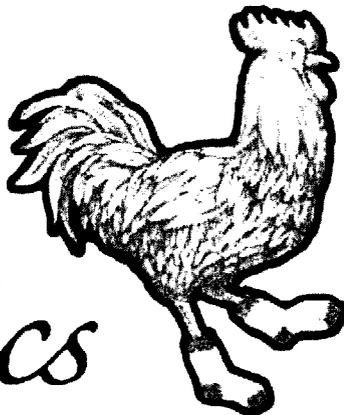
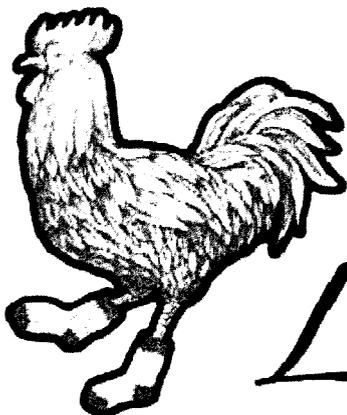
(District Office); McKnight, Rep. Scott (District Office); McMahan, Rep. Wayne (District Office); Miguez, Rep. Blake (District Office); Miller, Rep. Greg (District Office); Mincey, Rep. Buddy (District Office); Muscarello, Rep. Nicholas (District Office); Nelson, Rep. Richard (District Office); Orgeron, Rep. Joseph (District Office); Owen, Rep. Bob (District Office); Owen, Rep. Charles (District Office); Pressly, Rep. Thomas (District Office); Riser, Rep. Neil (District Office); Romero, Rep. Troy (District Office); Schamerhorn, Rep. Rodney (District Office); Schexnayder, Rep. Clay (District Office); Seabaugh, Rep. Alan (District Office); St. Blanc, Rep. Vincent (District Office); Stagni, Rep. Joseph (District Office); Stefanski, Rep. John (District Office); Tarver, Rep. Phillip (District Office); Thomas, Rep. Polly (District Office); Turner, Rep. Christopher (District Office); Villio, Rep. Debbie (District Office); Wheat, Rep. Bill (District Office); Wright, Rep. Mark (District Office); Zeringue, Rep. Jerome (District Office); Abraham, Sen. Mark (Chamber Laptop); Allain, Sen. Bret (Chamber Laptop); Bernard, Sen. Louie (Chamber Laptop); Cathey, Sen. Stewart (Chamber Laptop); Cloud, Sen. Heather (Chamber Laptop); Connick, Sen. Patrick (Chamber Laptop); Cortez, Sen. Page (Chamber Laptop); Fesi, Sen. Mike (Chamber Laptop); Foil, Sen. Franklin (Chamber Laptop); Henry, Sen. Cameron (Chamber Laptop); Hensgens, Sen. Bob (Chamber Laptop); Hewitt, Sen. Sharon (Chamber Laptop); Johns, Sen. Ronnie (Chamber Laptop); Lambert, Sen. Eddie (Chamber Laptop); McMath, Sen. Patrick (Chamber Laptop); Milligan, Sen. Barry (Chamber Laptop); Mills, Sen. Fred (Chamber Laptop); Mills, Sen. Robert (Chamber Laptop); Mizell, Sen. Beth (Chamber Laptop); Morris, Sen. Jay (Chamber Laptop); Peacock, Sen. Barrow (Chamber Laptop); Pope, Sen. Rogers (Chamber Laptop); Reese, Sen. Mike (Chamber Laptop); Talbot, Sen. Kirk (Chamber Laptop); Ward, Sen. Rick (Chamber Laptop); White, Sen. Bodi (Chamber Laptop); Womack, Sen. Glen (Chamber Laptop); Abraham, Sen. Mark (District Office); Allain, Sen. Bret (District Office); Bernard, Sen. Louie (District Office); Cathey, Sen. Stewart (District Office); Cloud, Sen. Heather (District Office); Connick, Sen. Patrick (District Office); Cortez, Sen. Page (District Office); Fesi, Sen. Mike (District Office); Foil, Sen. Franklin (District Office); Henry, Sen. Cameron (District Office); Hensgens, Sen. Bob (District Office); Hewitt, Sen. Sharon (District Office); Johns, Sen. Ronnie (District Office); Lambert, Sen. Eddie (District Office); McMath, Sen. Patrick (District Office); Milligan, Sen. Barry (District Office); Mills, Sen. Fred (District Office); Mills, Sen. Robert (District Office); Mizell, Sen. Beth (District Office); Morris, Sen. Jay (District Office); Peacock, Sen. Barrow (District Office); Pope, Sen. Rogers (District Office); Reese, Sen. Mike (District Office); Talbot, Sen. Kirk (District Office); Ward, Sen. Rick (District Office); White, Sen. Bodi (District Office); Womack, Sen. Glen (District Office)

Subject:

Runoff Time, sponsored by Southern Strategy Group



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LaPolitics
WEEKLY

From the Desk of **JEREMY ALFORD**

| April 23, 2021 | Issue 1277 | JJA@LaPolitics.com | [@LaPoliticsNow](https://twitter.com/LaPoliticsNow) | LaPoliticsWeekly.com |

RUNOFF TIME

Spring election cycle nearing end

With such a low anticipated turnout for Saturday's runoffs, no one would guess that the partisan makeup of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education hangs in the balance and that new members of Congress and the U.S. House are about to be elected. At this hour the weather poses some interesting questions, with a slight chance of rain tomorrow as far north as Shreveport and potentially severe thunderstorms in the New Orleans region. Nothing, however, will stop voters from bringing this spring cycle to a conclusion. And for that, we should all be thankful.

LA02

State Sens. **Troy Carter** and **Karen Carter Peterson** clashed one last time overnight in a televised debate hosted by WWL-TV. Both of the candidates accused each other of spreading falsehoods about the other, with Carter calling Peterson "divisive" and Peterson describing Carter as "discombobulated." Many local politicians still believe Carter has the edge in this contest, but, as usual, it all comes down to turnout. With the endorsement of third place finisher **Gary Chambers**, Peterson is hoping for a strong finish in the Baton Rouge area, which she will need to win. Carter, meanwhile, has a good foothold in the River parishes and Jefferson as New Orleans proper looks to be competitive. Should Peterson pull off a win, she'll owe a debt of gratitude to Chambers and New Orleans Mayor **LaToya Cantrell**, who is said to be leaning on her operation hard. These final days on the ground have largely been marked by various text message campaigns — with no "paid for" lines — that took aim at both candidates, and that both described as misleading.

HD82

Our other special election in Metairie, for the open House District 82 seat, became a rather personal war between the top contenders when the runoff started — and it's going to end that way as well. **Laurie Schlegel** has repeatedly attacked **Eddie Connick** as being part of a political dynasty in Jefferson Parish, in the process making this a referendum on the family name. That has not been missed by members of the Connick family, who are sparing no expense to turn out the vote this weekend. Again, turnout is likely to be abysmal, so anything could happen. During the primary, local politicians

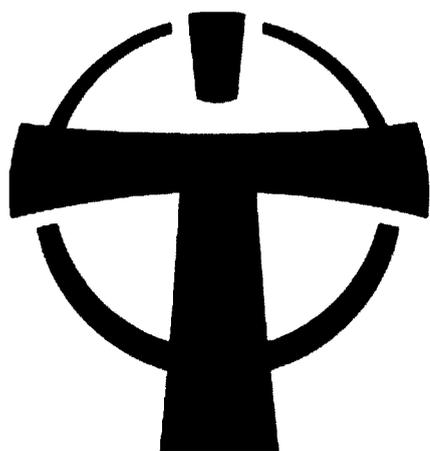
believed Connick had the race locked down, but these days no one is willing to place a wager on the contest. The House district isn't afraid of backing women for elected offices, based on recent races for the Parish Council and parish president. Yet voters there have also been supportive of the Connick name over the years. This one may go down to the wire.

BESE

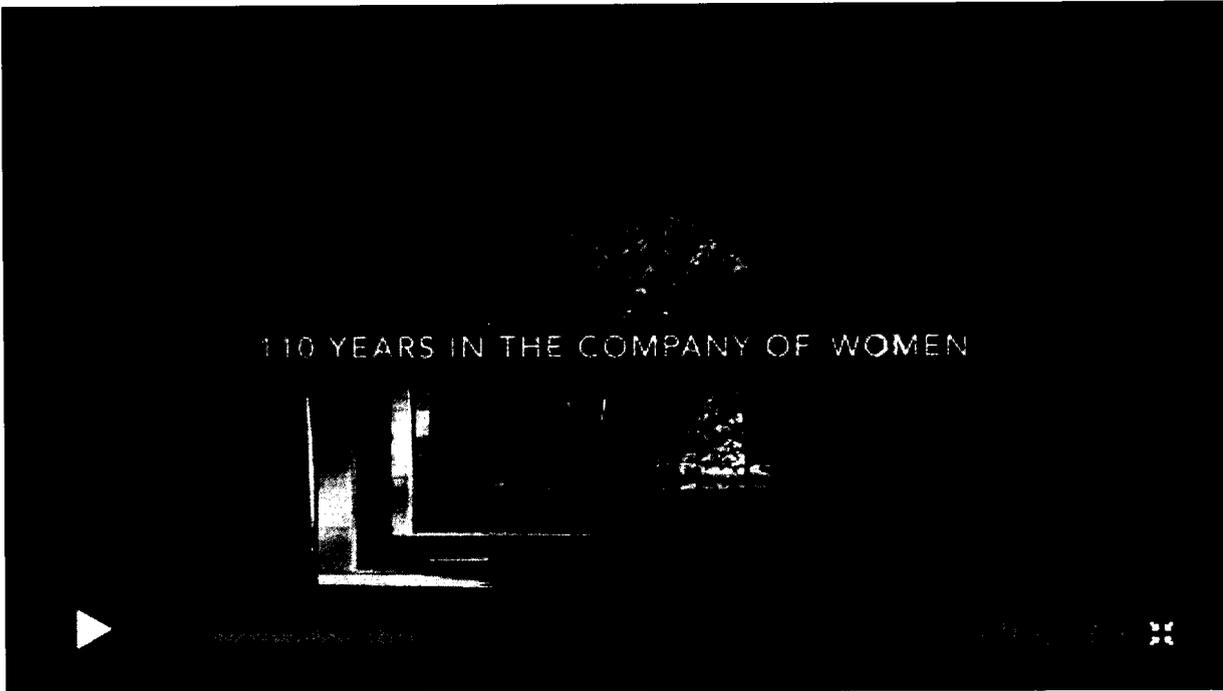
Supporters of Republican **Michael Melerine** feel confident he'll be the next member to represent the 4th District on the BESE board, based on recent electoral patterns and early voting data. Still, party diehards and education advocates spent heavy in the district to make sure he overcomes the bid by Democrat **Cassie Williams**. While personalities helped drive interest in the race in the primary, the runoff has served as a reminder that the board is currently evenly split between Republicans and Democrats. The winner will finally tip the scale. Republican-supported GOTV will be hard to miss in northwest Louisiana tomorrow.

EVERYTHING ELSE

The rest of the action is up in northeast Louisiana, where an open bench on the Court of Appeal (2nd Circuit) pits former representative and sitting Judge **Marcus L. Hunter** against **J. Garland Smith**. In the same region, the city of Bastrop will elect its next mayor — either **Betty Alford-Olive** or **Clarence W. Hawkins**. The incumbent mayor was squeezed out of the runoff. Elsewhere, there are 13 parishes that will have elections for parishwide tax propositions tomorrow. Another 23 parishes have no elections at all, including Avoyelles, Beauregard, Caldwell, Cameron, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, East Feliciana, Grant, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, LaSalle, Lincoln, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne, Union, Washington, and West Feliciana.



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OF OUR LADY
HEALTH SYSTEM



110 YEARS IN THE COMPANY OF WOMEN

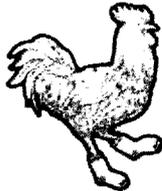
Our story began 110 years ago when the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Sisters traveled from Europe and established Louisiana as their new home. They immediately began caring for the sick and needy and, two years later, opened St. Francis Medical Center in Monroe. This was the first of many Franciscan Missionaries' hospitals founded under their leadership.

Our Franciscan Sisters were unquestionably pioneers — women, at the helm of healthcare — proving that females can be exceptional leaders. They paved the way for future generations by serving as examples of how women can have careers and flourish professionally, personally and spiritually. Today, their initial goal of opening one hospital has grown into what is now the region's most esteemed Catholic health system led by the Franciscan Sisters, and recently the addition of the Dominican Sisters, along with a majority female-empowered workforce.

2021 marks the 110-year anniversary of our founders beginning their work. Now we are celebrating all those years *In the Company of Women* by honoring individuals who exemplify the qualities of our Sisters and are dedicated stewards of our mission and values. These are women who are inspirational and indispensable to the success of our ministry and the health of the communities we serve. We hope you enjoy reading and watching their stories and gain insight into what it's like to be in the company of these

remarkable women.

[\(CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE\)](#)



Senate Takes Over Sales Tax Debate

The top policy priority for Speaker **Clay Schexnayder** and LABI shot out of the House like it was nobody's business this week and now the Senate is in control of the measure.

Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Chairman **Bret Allain** told *LaPolitics* that HB 199, a constitutional amendment that creates the framework for a centralized sales tax collection system, should receive its initial hearing in the Senate one week from Monday.

"You can never really predict these things, but I think it has a good chance of coming out of the committee," said Allain. "Right now we're trying to figure out who will handle it on the floor."

While many of the tax-related constitutional amendments could end up sharing space in a single bill later in the process, Allain said he and others intend to keep the centralized sales tax proposal as a standalone measure.

When Schexnayder's bill was heard on the House floor this week, the speaker chose freshman Rep. **Beau Beaulieu** to present the legislation and handle traffic. It was a clear sign of Beaulieu's proximity to the big gavel and the speaker's trust in the new member.

Beaulieu, who was also elected as vice chairman of the Acadiana Delegation this week, said he doesn't yet anticipate any significant amendments moving forward. "If there are going to be any changes on the Senate side, I haven't seen them," he said.

Support for the concept seems strong inside the Capitol, but there remains a

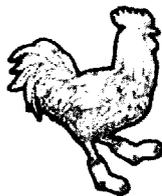
bit more mountain to climb. Aside from voters having to approve the constitutional amendment on ballot, which would in turn create a framework for the proposed system, lawmakers will have to return in a future session to pass a statutory companion bill to give full life to the idea.

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VOTE YES TO HB 495**

40% of Louisiana residents rely on Medicaid for their healthcare needs

80% of Nurse Practitioners accept Medicaid patients

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) can provide increased access to healthcare for the people of Louisiana when restrictive barriers to practice are permanently removed.



Magee, the Utility Player

House rules allow the speaker pro tem to be serve as an *ex officio* member of all standing committees, but in recent memory that allowance hasn't exactly been used in strategic and deliberate ways.

That changed when Speaker Pro Tem **Tanner Magee** slid into a seat on the Ways and Committee earlier this week and didn't move from it.

"I talked to the speaker and it seemed like there were a lot of bills in Ways and Means, it's an important committee this session and there's a lot of work to be done," Magee, a Republican, said in an interview.

There's also the matter of who will be the next vice chairman of Ways and Means, a decision the leadership has not yet made. For the time being, Magee is helping out with the duties usually assigned to the vice chair.

As an ex officio member of the committee, Magee isn't allowed to vote unless he personally makes a quorum for the panel. But his presence has provided the Democratic members of the committee with an alternative route to communicating with the leadership. (Some conservatives jokingly call Magee "The Dem Whisperer.")

He can field questions on the spot, clarify the position of the speaker and negotiate directly with committee members.

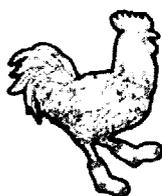
"The speaker can't be everywhere at once," said Magee. "That has always been the case, and the position of speaker pro tem has historically been underutilized. We're finding, with a little coordination, that it can be used to enhance the committee process and improve communications."



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Noncompete Issue Simmering

How hospitals and certain other employers engage physicians in noncompete agreements will be under review by lawmakers this session. The battle pits large provider networks and their affiliates and associations against each other in an attempt to provide flexibility for physicians.

Both sides are lobbied up for what will be one of the hottest health care issues debated during the session. The action could begin as soon as Monday, when the House Commerce Committee is slated to hear a pair of bills on the matter. (Don't be surprised if one or both instruments are delayed until the following week. Scheduling, as is the case with most big bills, has been a challenge.)

HB 483 by Rep. **Mark Wright** has the longest reach and was drafted by the Louisiana State Medical Society. The proposal has the support of the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady of Health System, among others.

Maria Bowen, the director of government affairs for LSMS, said, "We are leading the effort to limit physician noncompetes on behalf of Louisiana physicians and patients. Rep. Wright's bill is a reasonable compromise to address a compelling governmental interest in protecting the doctor patient relationship. Patients deserve the right to have access to their chosen physician."

Opposing the proposal is another set of provider networks, including Ochsner Health. Opponents argue that the current statute doesn't need to be changed and that a physician has the right to freely contract without government intervention.

Asked for comment, Ochsner Health released the following: "Ochsner is proud of its nearly 80-year history, founded by five physicians who formed a partnership to start the Ochsner Clinic. Today we employ over 1600 physicians in a multi-disciplinary group practice. In our group practice, non-compete provisions are standard as part of the employment agreement for physicians."

The Louisiana Hospital Association is neutral on the Wright legislation.

There's also HB 561 by House Health and Welfare Chair **Larry Bagley**, which deals specifically with state-employed physicians and is related to some issues in northwest Louisiana. This legislation is unlikely to draw the kind of high-powered engagement that may ultimately define Wright's bill.

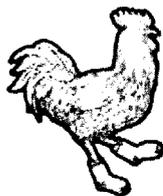
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Session Goals for LCTCS

The regular session offers both promise and change for the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, according to President **Monty Sullivan**. From advocating new employment programs to navigating this year's budget process, Sullivan said the LCTCS agenda is packed.

"Priority number one is the M.J. Foster Promise Program," he said. "We've been working on it for four years and it feels like we're at the right place in time to implement this, given the number of people unemployed and displaced by COVID."

The program, which offers financial assistance to eligible students pursuing

high-wage jobs, would be established by SB 148 by Senate President **Page Cortez**. The bill is scheduled to receive a Senate floor hearing Monday.

A bill filed at the last minute this week also captured Sullivan's attention. HB 676 by Rep. **Barbara Carpenter** would create the Apprenticeship Tax Credit Program. "There may be some more work to do on that bill," Sullivan said, "but we are looking to engage in more ways to increase apprenticeship work."

As for the overall budget picture, the president hit only optimistic notes. "Clearly, the governor's budget is the best budget higher ed has had in 20 years," said Sullivan. "I'm also excited about the increases in operations and faculty pay. We have to be competitive there. It's difficult when you're producing graduates who will make more on day one than their instructors."

Sullivan said his staff is also closely watching the ongoing Title IX issues being debated at the Capitol, mostly in conjunction with the handling of sexual misconduct allegations at LSU. "We're prepared to implement whatever emerges from this process and we feel really good about being able to respond to that," he said.

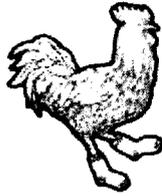
THE SOLUTION ISN'T HERE

IT'S RIGHT HERE AT HOME

YES ON HB 346

A Louisiana Solution to a Louisiana Problem

PJI



Beltway Beat

LETLOW HIRES STAFF

Congresswoman **Julia Letlow** has decided to keep the staff her late husband had put together back in December: **Ted Verrill**, chief of staff; **Andrew Bautsch**, chief of staff; **Lindsay Linhares**, legislative director; **Trey Williams**, communications director; **Heinz Kaiser**, senior legislative assistant; **Emma Herrock**, district director; **Caroline Courville**, scheduler; **Lansing Brakenridge**, staff assistant; **Ramona Riser Martin**, district representative for Northeast Louisiana; **LiLia Boies**, office manager for the Monroe district office; and **Donna Howe**, office manager and caseworker for the Alexandria district office.

NO BAN FOR JOHNSON

MSNBC recently took another look at corporate PAC donation bans for congressional members who objected to President **Joe Biden** taking office — and they found a few exceptions: "With AT&T, for example, the company's employee PACs did not donate to any individual member of Congress who sought to overturn the election results. They did donate to multi-candidate PACs, including \$5,000 to one chaired by objector Rep. **Mike Johnson** of Louisiana, but said they received assurances that the money would not be used to support the campaigns of objectors, spokesman Michael Balmoris said."

GRAVES ON PARIS

In conjunction with House GOP Leader **Kevin McCarthy**, Congressman **Garret Graves** has cut a video explaining "America's path to clean energy" and the Paris Transparency and Accountability Act. (Watch it)

KENNEDY SAID IT

Another week, another eye-catching headline. This time it's from *Newsweek*: "Sen. **John Kennedy** Brands **Joe Biden** 'Full Wokerista.'" (Read it)

SCALISE CRANKS UP THE HEAT

House Republican Whip **Steve Scalise** and more than 25 members of the so-called House Energy Action Team — or HEAT — criticized President **Joe**

Biden Thursday for “pledging to shackle the United States to a new sweeping and unattainable Paris Agreement commitment that will destroy thousands of energy jobs and devastate American workers.” Scalise said, “Tying America’s hands to a larger and equally flawed Paris Agreement guarantees that the world will get its energy from countries like China, Russia, and Iran, which will increase carbon emissions while destroying the American economy. Meanwhile, China gets a free pass under Paris, and many countries, including even France, have fallen short of the promises they’ve made.”

HIGGINS & DEBRIS DOLLARS

Congressman **Clay Higgins** announced Wednesday that FEMA will award \$21 million to the city of Lake Charles for debris removal operations in response to Hurricane Laura. The reimbursement will be made at a 100 percent federal cost-share.

CASSIDY’S PAC BACKED KATKO

Politics reporter **Robert Harding** recently pointed out that some of the Republican members of Congress who supported the impeachment or conviction of former President **Donald Trump** are also donors to each other. Specifically, Harding noted that U.S. Sen. **Bill Cassidy's** political action committee donated \$2,500 to New York Congressman **John Katko**.

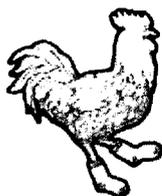
We are Vaccinated!

Thank you to Louisiana's state and federal officials for prioritizing our nursing facility residents and health care heroes to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

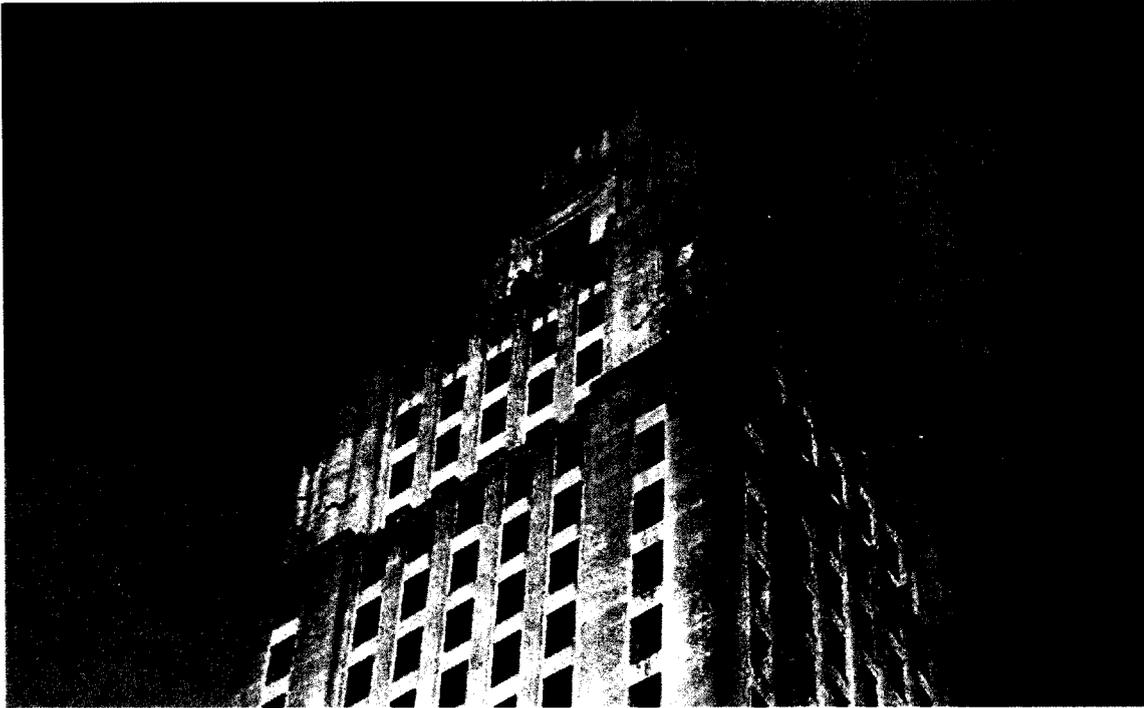


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NURSING HOME
ASSOCIATION
LNHA.org



News You Can Use

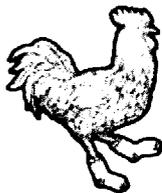


- [Campaigns & Elections](#): Dem Pollsters Say Turnout and Measurement Error Led to Inaccuracy in 2020
- [Governing](#): Pandemic Provokes City Versus State Conflicts
- [NCSL](#): All 50 states have introduced election-related bills so far this year
- [CRP](#): GOP leadership bankrolls election objectors who lost PAC support
- [Axios](#): **Joe Biden** pledges to cut greenhouse gas emissions by up to 52% by 2030
- [Politico](#): Black Democrats urge party to shift its voting rights push
- [Roll Call](#): Subtle differences separate Democrats seeking open House seat in Louisiana
- [Hayride](#): **Royal Alexander**: The Unwise And Unwarranted Court-Packing Idea
- [Illuminator](#): Bills addressing LSU sexual misconduct scandals move forward
- [Center Square](#): Louisiana Senate committee advances \$15 minimum

wage; freezes employer unemployment taxes

- WWL: Sources: Biden selects **Keva Landrum** for U.S. Attorney for Eastern District of Louisiana
- The Advocate: **Ronald Gathe** picked for Baton Rouge U.S. attorney; he's the first Black nominee
- AP: Senate backs grading system for Louisiana water systems
- The Advocate: Louisiana state Senate committee sides (again) with oil companies against parishes over lawsuits
- Business Report: Mandatory kindergarten could be coming to Louisiana
- WVLA: AG **Jeff Landry** talking about "human resource issues at" Louisiana DOJ
- Livingston Parish News: Louisiana Senate approves amendment to allow tax cut, tax break swap
- KTVE: Louisiana gun groups weigh in on bill that would legalize permitless conceal carry
- The Advocate: Advocates for senior citizens, foster parents ask Louisiana's lawmakers for funding

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OIL AND GAS ASSOCIATION

👑 PRESENTS 👑

PAST IS PROLOGUE

A standing feature of LaPolitics Weekly that seeks to apply *yesterday to today* – and *tomorrow*

The Fastest *Sine Die* Ever

In the summer of 1959, every news outlet in Louisiana was filled with reports of the daily activities of then-Gov. **Earl K. Long**. Having just obtained a highly-publicized release from a state mental hospital in Mandeville, Long made headlines for soon afterward cavorting with a Bourbon Street stripper, **Blaze Starr**, before embarking on a wild vacation in the western states.

According to historian **Jack McGuire** in his book, *Win the Race or Die Trying: Uncle Earl's Last Hurrah*, Long had stayed in touch with legislators during his vacation, mailing his lawmakers everything from postcards to cases of cantaloupes. Some, like Sen. **Sixty Rayburn** of Bogalusa, even joined the governor for parts of his multi-week trip.

Long had been institutionalized during the regular session of the Legislature, which had become bogged down in a debate over voting rights and racial integration. Because the governor was out of pocket, many of his favored bills had been voted down or died in committee.

Returning to Louisiana refreshed, Long called a special session of the Legislature to enact a litany of bills that he wanted passed. Included in his call were routine measures such as taxes, higher ed and local districts. Then there was a section asking to review the statutes around the involuntary commitment of a person to a mental institution.

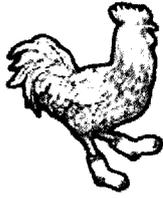
Legislators, meanwhile, were tired of the governor's behavior and unenthusiastic about going into a special session with elections only a few months away. Gauging the mood of their members, Long's floor leaders tried to have him call off the session, but the governor ignored their pleas.

When lawmakers gaveled in at 5 p.m. on August 10, they made quick work of the session.

The House's first order of business was to swear in a new member. As soon as that was done, another member, Rep. **Ben Holt**, moved to adjourn sine die. The motion passed easily and the Senate concurred within minutes, ending the shortest special session — about 10 minutes total — in Louisiana's history.

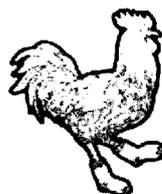
Gov. Long made his way over to the Senate chamber and addressed lawmakers as they headed home. Despite the rebuke of his special session, he made light of the situation, telling members, "So you might say now that you have had an opportunity to see a crazy governor."

The Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association is the sponsor of "Past is Prologue." LMOGA was formed in 1919 and represents the all aspects of petroleum industry operating in Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico.



Field Notes

- The Louisiana Political Hall of Fame has announced its 2021 inductees and award winners: Sen. **Greg Tarver**, former Sen. **Robert Adley**, former Congressman **Jim McCrery**, late LABI and PAR head **Ed Steimel**, the Young Turks, the Jackson (**Lydia & Alphonse**) family, **Lou Gehrig Burnett** and late Congressman-elect **Luke Letlow**. The induction ceremony will be in Shreveport this year, on June 26. For more info and tickets visit www.lapolmushof.com or call (318) 628-5928.
- Via LHA: "In this video, Senator **Regina Ashford Barrow** recalls how COVID-19 took the life of her spouse, and she thanks the employees of Lane Regional Medical Center for making it easy for community residents to receive the COVID Vaccine.."
- House Health and Welfare voted 12-1 this week to approve HB 391 by Speaker Pro Tem **Tanner Magee** to make way for the full flower in Louisiana's medical marijuana program. Rep. **Robby Carter** voted no.
- Gov. **John Bel Edwards** said this week he does not support legislation that would eliminate concealed carry permits.
- The **Steve Carter** Literacy Program (HB 85 by Rep. **Scott McKnight**) was advanced this week by the House Ed Committee.
- House Ed also advanced HB 409 by Rep. **Aimee Freeman** to update how colleges handle sexual assault allegations.
- The Criminal Justice Committee unanimously passed HB 54 by Rep. **Rick Edmonds** to create the crime of adoption deception.



They Said It

"My instructor claims I'm the better shot."

—**Susan East Nelson**, executive director of the Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families, explaining that both her and her husband have received firearm training

"I forgot to call him. I'm sure he's okay with this."

—Sen. **Pat Connick**, referencing former Senate President **John Alario**, on legislation changing a highway name in Westwego

"I always just end up paying the sticker price."

—Sen. **Patrick McMath**, discussing new car sale negotiations

"And we appreciate you, Sen. McMath."

—Louisiana Automobile Dealers Association President **Will Green**, in response

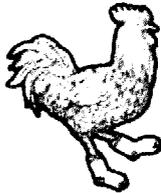
"There was a lot of testimony today. That's why I tell everyone I hate this committee. Everyone has kids and everyone has an opinion about education. I could have stayed in bed this morning. There are no easy decisions on this committee."

—Sen. **Bodi White**, drawing laughter in the Senate Education Committee

"It's toast."

—Rep. **Beau Beaulieu**, describing the centralized sales tax amendment if there's ultimately no accompanying statutory legislation

The sponsor of "They Said It," Top Drawer Strategies, is a full-service government relations, political consulting, public relations and media production firm with a record of success managing budgets large and small. Learn more at www.TopDrawerStrategies.com.



THE END.

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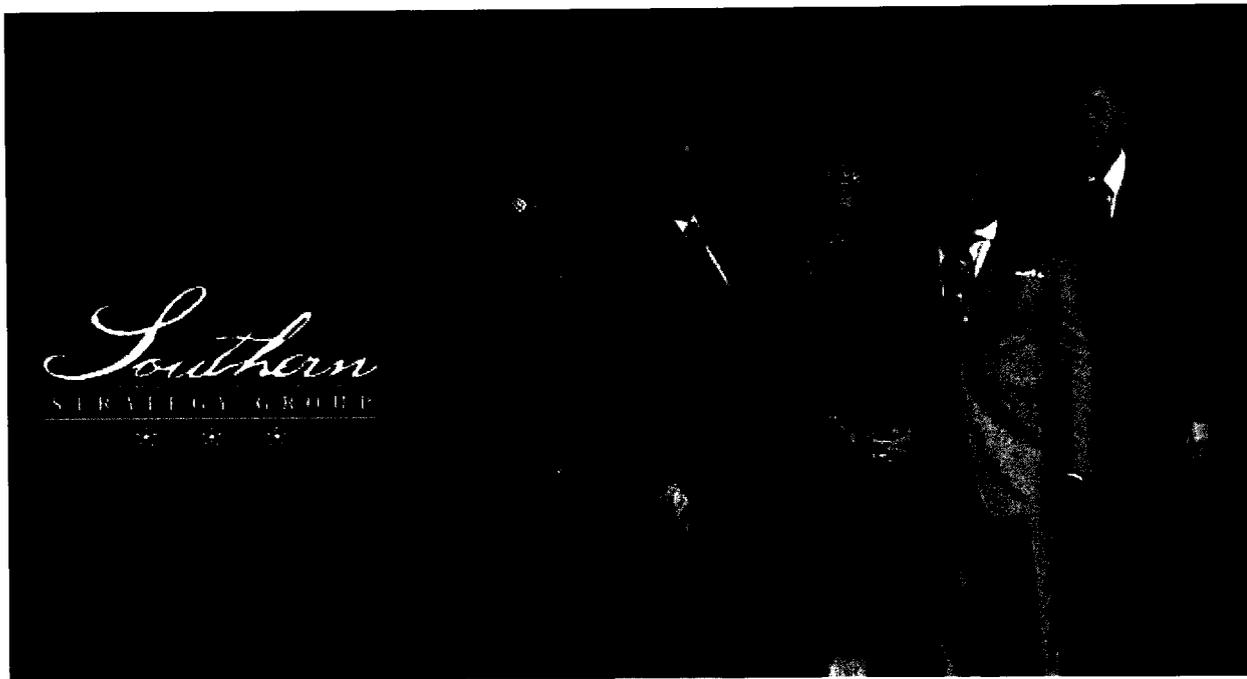
From: Miguez, Rep. Blake (District Office)
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 12:23 PM
To: Amedee, Rep. Beryl (Chamber Laptop); Bacala, Rep. Tony (Chamber Laptop); Bagley, Rep. Larry (Chamber Laptop); Beaulieu, Rep. Beau (Chamber Laptop); Bishop, Rep. Stuart (Chamber Laptop); Bourriaque, Rep. Ryan (Chamber Laptop); Butler, Rep. Rhonda (Chamber Laptop); Carrier, Rep. Dewith (Chamber Laptop); Coussan, Rep. Jean-Paul (Chamber Laptop); Crews, Rep. Raymond (Chamber Laptop); Davis, Rep. Paula (Chamber Laptop); Deshotel, Rep. Daryl (Chamber Laptop); DeVillier, Rep. Phillip (Chamber Laptop); DuBuisson, Rep. Mary (Chamber Laptop); Echols, Rep. Michael (Chamber Laptop); Edmonds, Rep. Rick (Chamber Laptop); Edmonston, Rep. Kathy (Chamber Laptop); Emerson, Rep. Julie (Chamber Laptop); Farnum, Rep. Les (Chamber Laptop); Firment, Rep. Gabe (Chamber Laptop); Fontenot, Rep. Bryan (Chamber Laptop); Freiberg, Rep. Barbara (Chamber Laptop); Frieman, Rep. Larry (Chamber Laptop); Gadberry, Rep. Foy (Chamber Laptop); Garofalo, Rep. Ray (Chamber Laptop); Geymann, Rep. (Chamber Laptop); Goudeau, Rep. Jonathan (Chamber Laptop); Harris, Rep. Lance (Chamber Laptop); Hilferty, Rep. Stephanie (Chamber Laptop); Hodges, Rep. Valarie (Chamber Laptop); Hollis, Rep. Paul (Chamber Laptop); Horton, Rep. Dodie (Chamber Laptop); Huval, Rep. Michael (Chamber Laptop); Illg, Rep. John (Chamber Laptop); Ivey, Rep. Barry (Chamber Laptop); Johnson, Rep. Mike (Chamber Laptop); Kerner, Rep. Timothy (Chamber Laptop); Mack, Rep. Sherman (Chamber Laptop); Magee, Rep. Tanner (Chamber Laptop); McCormick, Rep. Danny (Chamber Laptop); McFarland, Rep. Jack (Chamber Laptop); McKnight, Rep. Scott (Chamber Laptop); McMahan, Rep. Wayne (Chamber Laptop); Miguez, Rep. Blake (Chamber Laptop); Miller, Rep. Greg (Chamber Laptop); Mincey, Rep. Buddy (Chamber Laptop); Muscarello, Rep. Nicholas (Chamber Laptop); Nelson, Rep. Richard (Chamber Laptop); Orgeron, Rep. Joseph (Chamber Laptop); Owen, Rep. Bob (Chamber Laptop); Owen, Rep. Charles (Chamber Laptop); Pressly, Rep. Thomas (Chamber Laptop); Riser, Rep. Neil (Chamber Laptop); Romero, Rep. Troy (Chamber Laptop); Schamerhorn, Rep. Rodney (Chamber Laptop); Schexnayder, Rep. Clay (Chamber Laptop); Seabaugh, Rep. Alan (Chamber Laptop); St. Blanc, Rep. Vincent (Chamber Laptop); Stagni, Rep. Joseph (Chamber Laptop); Stefanski, Rep. John (Chamber Laptop); Tarver, Rep. Phillip (Chamber Laptop); Thomas, Rep. Polly (Chamber Laptop); Turner, Rep. Christopher (Chamber Laptop); Villio, Rep. (Chamber Laptop); Wheat, Rep. Bill (Chamber Laptop); Wright, Rep. Mark (Chamber Laptop); Zeringue, Rep. Jerome (Chamber Laptop); Amedee, Rep. Beryl (District Office); Bacala, Rep. Tony (District Office); Bagley, Rep. Larry (District Office); Beaulieu, Rep. Beau (District Office); Bishop, Rep. Stuart (District Office); Bourriaque, Rep. Ryan (District Office); Butler, Rep. Rhonda (District Office); Carrier, Rep. Dewith (District Office); Coussan, Rep. Jean-Paul (District Office); Crews, Rep. Raymond (District Office); Davis, Rep. Paula (District Office); Deshotel, Rep. Daryl (District Office); DeVillier, Rep. Phillip (District Office); DuBuisson, Rep. Mary (District Office); Echols, Rep. Michael (District Office); Edmonds, Rep. Rick (District Office); Edmonston, Rep. Kathy (District Office); Emerson, Rep. Julie (District Office); Farnum, Rep. Les (District Office); Firment, Rep. Gabe (District Office); Fontenot, Rep. Bryan (District Office); Freiberg, Rep. Barbara (District Office); Frieman, Rep. Larry (District Office); Gadberry, Rep. Foy (District Office); Garofalo, Rep. Ray (District Office); Geymann, Rep. (District Office); Goudeau, Rep. Jonathan (District Office); Harris, Rep. Lance (District Office); Hilferty, Rep. Stephanie (District Office); Hodges, Rep. Valarie (District Office); Hollis, Rep. Paul (District Office); Horton, Rep. Dodie (District Office); Huval, Rep. Michael (District Office); Illg, Rep. John (District Office); Ivey, Rep. Barry (District Office); Johnson, Rep. Mike (District Office); Kerner, Rep. Timothy (District Office); Mack, Rep. Sherman (District Office); Magee, Rep. Tanner (District Office); McCormick, Rep. Danny (District Office); McFarland, Rep. Jack

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Subject:

Runoff Time, sponsored by Southern Strategy Group



The main title 'LaPolitics WEEKLY' is centered on the page. The word 'LaPolitics' is written in a large, flowing cursive script. Below it, the word 'WEEKLY' is written in a very large, bold, all-caps sans-serif font. Two detailed line-art illustrations of roosters are positioned on either side of the 'LaPolitics' text, facing outwards.

From the Desk of **JEREMY ALFORD**

| April 23, 2021 | Issue 1277 | JJA@LaPolitics.com | [@LaPoliticsNow](https://twitter.com/LaPoliticsNow) | LaPoliticsWeekly.com |

RUNOFF TIME

Spring election cycle nearing end

With such a low anticipated turnout for Saturday's runoffs, no one would guess that the partisan makeup of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education hangs in the balance and that new members of Congress and the U.S. House are about to be elected. At this hour the weather poses some interesting questions, with a slight chance of rain tomorrow as far north as Shreveport and potentially severe thunderstorms in the New Orleans region. Nothing, however, will stop voters from bringing this spring cycle to a conclusion. And for that, we should all be thankful.

LA02

State Sens. **Troy Carter** and **Karen Carter Peterson** clashed one last time overnight in a televised debate hosted by WWL-TV. Both of the candidates accused each other of spreading falsehoods about the other, with Carter calling Peterson "divisive" and Peterson describing Carter as "discombobulated." Many local politicians still believe Carter has the edge in this contest, but, as usual, it all comes down to turnout. With the endorsement of third place finisher **Gary Chambers**, Peterson is hoping for a strong finish in the Baton Rouge area, which she will need to win. Carter, meanwhile, has a good foothold in the River parishes and Jefferson as New Orleans proper looks to be competitive. Should Peterson pull off a win, she'll owe a debt of gratitude to Chambers and New Orleans Mayor **LaToya Cantrell**, who is said to be leaning on her operation hard. These final days on the ground have largely been marked by various text message campaigns — with no "paid for" lines — that took aim at both candidates, and that both described as misleading.

HD82

Our other special election in Metairie, for the open House District 82 seat, became a rather personal war between the top contenders when the runoff started — and it's going to end that way as well. **Laurie Schlegel** has repeatedly attacked **Eddie Connick** as being part of a political dynasty in Jefferson Parish, in the process making this a referendum on the family name. That has not been missed by members of the Connick family, who are sparing no expense to turn out the vote this weekend. Again, turnout is likely to be abysmal, so anything could happen. During the primary, local politicians

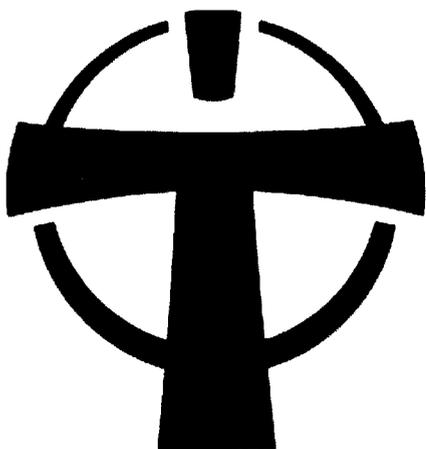
believed Connick had the race locked down, but these days no one is willing to place a wager on the contest. The House district isn't afraid of backing women for elected offices, based on recent races for the Parish Council and parish president. Yet voters there have also been supportive of the Connick name over the years. This one may go down to the wire.

BESE

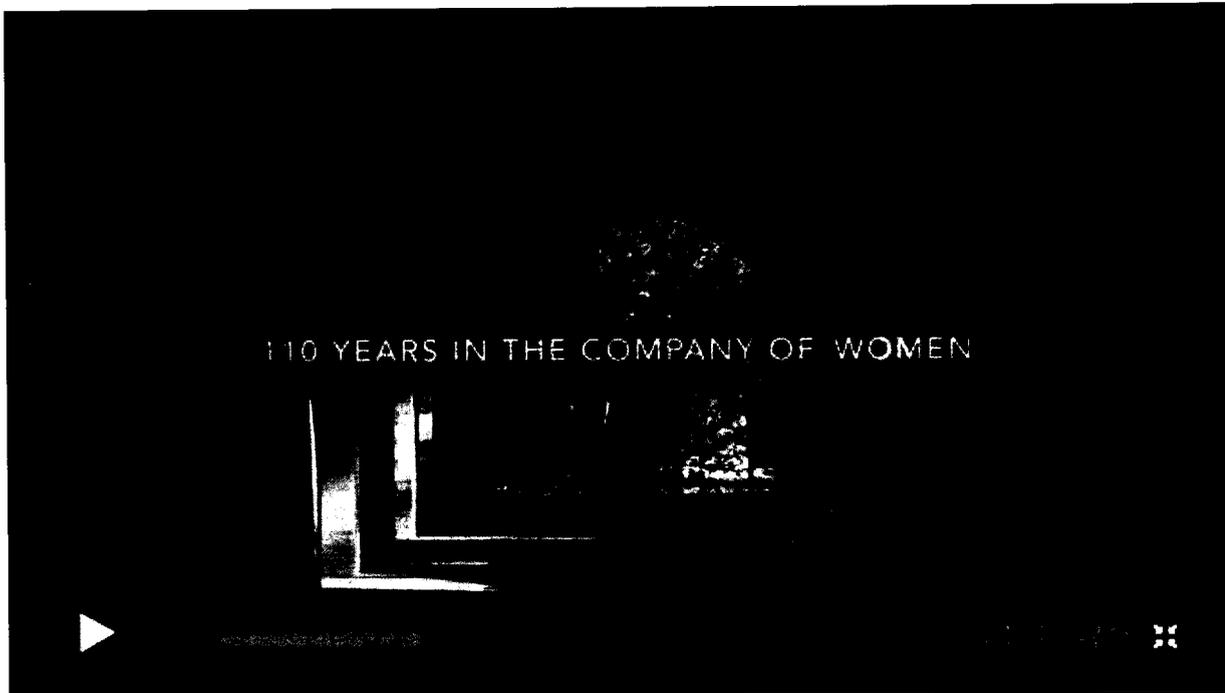
Supporters of Republican **Michael Melerine** feel confident he'll be the next member to represent the 4th District on the BESE board, based on recent electoral patterns and early voting data. Still, party diehards and education advocates spent heavy in the district to make sure he overcomes the bid by Democrat **Cassie Williams**. While personalities helped drive interest in the race in the primary, the runoff has served as a reminder that the board is currently evenly split between Republicans and Democrats. The winner will finally tip the scale. Republican-supported GOTV will be hard to miss in northwest Louisiana tomorrow.

EVERYTHING ELSE

The rest of the action is up in northeast Louisiana, where an open bench on the Court of Appeal (2nd Circuit) pits former representative and sitting Judge **Marcus L. Hunter** against **J. Garland Smith**. In the same region, the city of Bastrop will elect its next mayor — either **Betty Alford-Olive** or **Clarence W. Hawkins**. The incumbent mayor was squeezed out of the runoff. Elsewhere, there are 13 parishes that will have elections for parishwide tax propositions tomorrow. Another 23 parishes have no elections at all, including Avoyelles, Beauregard, Caldwell, Cameron, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, East Feliciana, Grant, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, LaSalle, Lincoln, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne, Union, Washington, and West Feliciana.



**FRANCISCAN
MISSIONARIES
OF OUR LADY
HEALTH SYSTEM**



110 YEARS IN THE COMPANY OF WOMEN

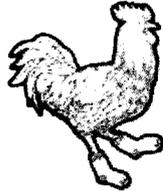
Our story began 110 years ago when the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Sisters traveled from Europe and established Louisiana as their new home. They immediately began caring for the sick and needy and, two years later, opened St. Francis Medical Center in Monroe. This was the first of many Franciscan Missionaries' hospitals founded under their leadership.

Our Franciscan Sisters were unquestionably pioneers — women, at the helm of healthcare — proving that females can be exceptional leaders. They paved the way for future generations by serving as examples of how women can have careers and flourish professionally, personally and spiritually. Today, their initial goal of opening one hospital has grown into what is now the region's most esteemed Catholic health system led by the Franciscan Sisters, and recently the addition of the Dominican Sisters, along with a majority female-empowered workforce.

2021 marks the 110-year anniversary of our founders beginning their work. Now we are celebrating all those years *In the Company of Women* by honoring individuals who exemplify the qualities of our Sisters and are dedicated stewards of our mission and values. These are women who are inspirational and indispensable to the success of our ministry and the health of the communities we serve. We hope you enjoy reading and watching their stories and gain insight into what it's like to be in the company of these

remarkable women.

[\(CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE\)](#)



Senate Takes Over Sales Tax Debate

The top policy priority for Speaker **Clay Schexnayder** and LABI shot out of the House like it was nobody's business this week and now the Senate is in control of the measure.

Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Chairman **Bret Allain** told *LaPolitics* that HB 199, a constitutional amendment that creates the framework for a centralized sales tax collection system, should receive its initial hearing in the Senate one week from Monday.

"You can never really predict these things, but I think it has a good chance of coming out of the committee," said Allain. "Right now we're trying to figure out who will handle it on the floor."

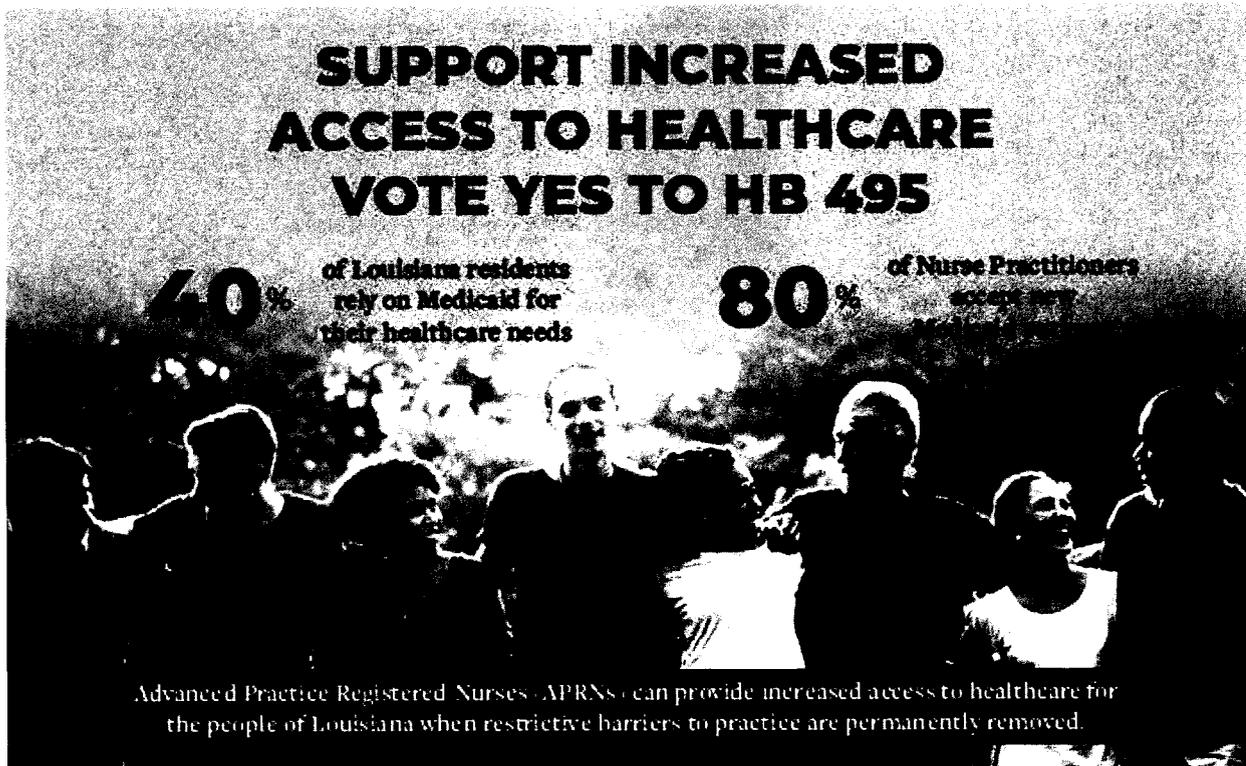
While many of the tax-related constitutional amendments could end up sharing space in a single bill later in the process, Allain said he and others intend to keep the centralized sales tax proposal as a standalone measure.

When Schexnayder's bill was heard on the House floor this week, the speaker chose freshman Rep. **Beau Beaulieu** to present the legislation and handle traffic. It was a clear sign of Beaulieu's proximity to the big gavel and the speaker's trust in the new member.

Beaulieu, who was also elected as vice chairman of the Acadiana Delegation this week, said he doesn't yet anticipate any significant amendments moving forward. "If there are going to be any changes on the Senate side, I haven't seen them," he said.

Support for the concept seems strong inside the Capitol, but there remains a

bit more mountain to climb. Aside from voters having to approve the constitutional amendment on ballot, which would in turn create a framework for the proposed system, lawmakers will have to return in a future session to pass a statutory companion bill to give full life to the idea.

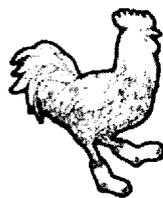


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40% of Louisiana residents
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80% of Nurse Practitioners
accept only
Medicaid patients

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) can provide increased access to healthcare for the people of Louisiana when restrictive barriers to practice are permanently removed.



Magee, the Utility Player

House rules allow the speaker pro tem to be serve as an *ex officio* member of all standing committees, but in recent memory that allowance hasn't exactly been used in strategic and deliberate ways.

That changed when Speaker Pro Tem **Tanner Magee** slid into a seat on the Ways and Committee earlier this week and didn't move from it.

"I talked to the speaker and it seemed like there were a lot of bills in Ways and Means, it's an important committee this session and there's a lot of work to be done," Magee, a Republican, said in an interview.

There's also the matter of who will be the next vice chairman of Ways and Means, a decision the leadership has not yet made. For the time being, Magee is helping out with the duties usually assigned to the vice chair.

As an ex officio member of the committee, Magee isn't allowed to vote unless he personally makes a quorum for the panel. But his presence has provided the Democratic members of the committee with an alternative route to communicating with the leadership. (Some conservatives jokingly call Magee "The Dem Whisperer.")

He can field questions on the spot, clarify the position of the speaker and negotiate directly with committee members.

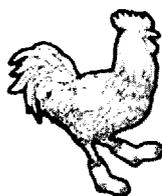
"The speaker can't be everywhere at once," said Magee. "That has always been the case, and the position of speaker pro tem has historically been underutilized. We're finding, with a little coordination, that it can be used to enhance the committee process and improve communications."



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Noncompete Issue Simmering

How hospitals and certain other employers engage physicians in noncompete agreements will be under review by lawmakers this session. The battle pits large provider networks and their affiliates and associations against each other in an attempt to provide flexibility for physicians.

Both sides are lobbied up for what will be one of the hottest health care issues debated during the session. The action could begin as soon as Monday, when the House Commerce Committee is slated to hear a pair of bills on the matter. (Don't be surprised if one or both instruments are delayed until the following week. Scheduling, as is the case with most big bills, has been a challenge.)

HB 483 by Rep. **Mark Wright** has the longest reach and was drafted by the Louisiana State Medical Society. The proposal has the support of the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady of Health System, among others.

Maria Bowen, the director of government affairs for LSMS, said, "We are leading the effort to limit physician noncompetes on behalf of Louisiana physicians and patients. Rep. Wright's bill is a reasonable compromise to address a compelling governmental interest in protecting the doctor patient relationship. Patients deserve the right to have access to their chosen physician."

Opposing the proposal is another set of provider networks, including Ochsner Health. Opponents argue that the current statute doesn't need to be changed and that a physician has the right to freely contract without government intervention.

Asked for comment, Ochsner Health released the following: "Ochsner is proud of its nearly 80-year history, founded by five physicians who formed a partnership to start the Ochsner Clinic. Today we employ over 1600 physicians in a multi-disciplinary group practice. In our group practice, non-compete provisions are standard as part of the employment agreement for physicians."

The Louisiana Hospital Association is neutral on the Wright legislation.

There's also HB 561 by House Health and Welfare Chair **Larry Bagley**, which deals specifically with state-employed physicians and is related to some issues in northwest Louisiana. This legislation is unlikely to draw the kind of high-powered engagement that may ultimately define Wright's bill.

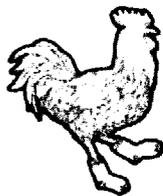
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Session Goals for LCTCS

The regular session offers both promise and change for the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, according to President **Monty Sullivan**. From advocating new employment programs to navigating this year's budget process, Sullivan said the LCTCS agenda is packed.

"Priority number one is the M.J. Foster Promise Program," he said. "We've been working on it for four years and it feels like we're at the right place in time to implement this, given the number of people unemployed and displaced by COVID."

The program, which offers financial assistance to eligible students pursuing

high-wage jobs, would be established by SB 148 by Senate President **Page Cortez**. The bill is scheduled to receive a Senate floor hearing Monday.

A bill filed at the last minute this week also captured Sullivan's attention. HB 676 by Rep. **Barbara Carpenter** would create the Apprenticeship Tax Credit Program. "There may be some more work to do on that bill," Sullivan said, "but we are looking to engage in more ways to increase apprenticeship work."

As for the overall budget picture, the president hit only optimistic notes. "Clearly, the governor's budget is the best budget higher ed has had in 20 years," said Sullivan. "I'm also excited about the increases in operations and faculty pay. We have to be competitive there. It's difficult when you're producing graduates who will make more on day one than their instructors."

Sullivan said his staff is also closely watching the ongoing Title IX issues being debated at the Capitol, mostly in conjunction with the handling of sexual misconduct allegations at LSU. "We're prepared to implement whatever emerges from this process and we feel really good about being able to respond to that," he said.

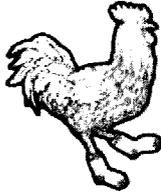
THE SOLUTION ISN'T HERE

IT'S RIGHT HERE AT HOME

YES ON HB 346

A Louisiana Solution to a Louisiana Problem

PJA



Beltway Beat

LETLOW HIRES STAFF

Congresswoman **Julia Letlow** has decided to keep the staff her late husband had put together back in December: **Ted Verrill**, chief of staff; **Andrew Bautsch**, chief of staff; **Lindsay Linhares**, legislative director; **Trey Williams**, communications director; **Heinz Kaiser**, senior legislative assistant; **Emma Herrock**, district director; **Caroline Courville**, scheduler; **Lansing Brakenridge**, staff assistant; **Ramona Riser Martin**, district representative for Northeast Louisiana; **LiLi Boies**, office manager for the Monroe district office; and **Donna Howe**, office manager and caseworker for the Alexandria district office.

NO BAN FOR JOHNSON

MSNBC recently took another look at corporate PAC donation bans for congressional members who objected to President **Joe Biden** taking office — and they found a few exceptions: "With AT&T, for example, the company's employee PACs did not donate to any individual member of Congress who sought to overturn the election results. They did donate to multi-candidate PACs, including \$5,000 to one chaired by objector Rep. **Mike Johnson** of Louisiana, but said they received assurances that the money would not be used to support the campaigns of objectors, spokesman Michael Balmoris said."

GRAVES ON PARIS

In conjunction with House GOP Leader **Kevin McCarthy**, Congressman **Garret Graves** has cut a video explaining "America's path to clean energy" and the Paris Transparency and Accountability Act. (Watch it)

KENNEDY SAID IT

Another week, another eye-catching headline. This time it's from *Newsweek*: "Sen. **John Kennedy** Brands **Joe Biden** 'Full Wokerista.'" (Read it)

SCALISE CRANKS UP THE HEAT

House Republican Whip **Steve Scalise** and more than 25 members of the so-called House Energy Action Team — or HEAT — criticized President **Joe**

Biden Thursday for “pledging to shackle the United States to a new sweeping and unattainable Paris Agreement commitment that will destroy thousands of energy jobs and devastate American workers.” Scalise said, “Tying America’s hands to a larger and equally flawed Paris Agreement guarantees that the world will get its energy from countries like China, Russia, and Iran, which will increase carbon emissions while destroying the American economy. Meanwhile, China gets a free pass under Paris, and many countries, including even France, have fallen short of the promises they’ve made.”

HIGGINS & DEBRIS DOLLARS

Congressman **Clay Higgins** announced Wednesday that FEMA will award \$21 million to the city of Lake Charles for debris removal operations in response to Hurricane Laura. The reimbursement will be made at a 100 percent federal cost-share.

CASSIDY’S PAC BACKED KATKO

Politics reporter **Robert Harding** recently pointed out that some of the Republican members of Congress who supported the impeachment or conviction of former President **Donald Trump** are also donors to each other. Specifically, Harding noted that U.S. Sen. **Bill Cassidy's** political action committee donated \$2,500 to New York Congressman **John Katko**.

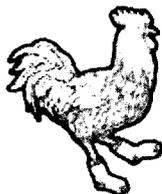
We are Vaccinated!

Thank you to Louisiana's state and federal officials for prioritizing our nursing facility residents and health care heroes to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

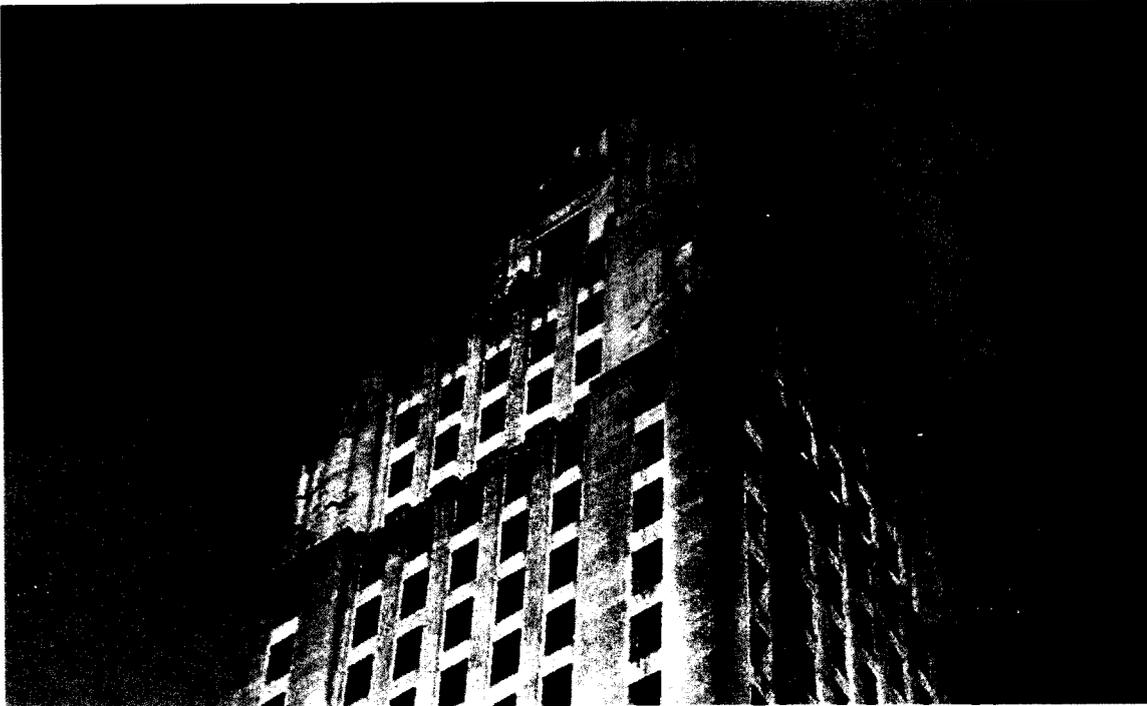


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News You Can Use

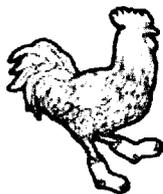


- [Campaigns & Elections](#): Dem Pollsters Say Turnout and Measurement Error Led to Inaccuracy in 2020
- [Governing](#): Pandemic Provokes City Versus State Conflicts
- [NCSL](#): All 50 states have introduced election-related bills so far this year
- [CRP](#): GOP leadership bankrolls election objectors who lost PAC support
- [Axios](#): **Joe Biden** pledges to cut greenhouse gas emissions by up to 52% by 2030
- [Politico](#): Black Democrats urge party to shift its voting rights push
- [Roll Call](#): Subtle differences separate Democrats seeking open House seat in Louisiana
- [Hayride](#): **Royal Alexander**: The Unwise And Unwarranted Court-Packing Idea
- [Illuminator](#): Bills addressing LSU sexual misconduct scandals move forward
- [Center Square](#): Louisiana Senate committee advances \$15 minimum

wage; freezes employer unemployment taxes

- WWL: Sources: Biden selects **Keva Landrum** for U.S. Attorney for Eastern District of Louisiana
- The Advocate: **Ronald Gathe** picked for Baton Rouge U.S. attorney; he's the first Black nominee
- AP: Senate backs grading system for Louisiana water systems
- The Advocate: Louisiana state Senate committee sides (again) with oil companies against parishes over lawsuits
- Business Report: Mandatory kindergarten could be coming to Louisiana
- WVLA: AG **Jeff Landry** talking about "human resource issues at" Louisiana DOJ
- Livingston Parish News: Louisiana Senate approves amendment to allow tax cut, tax break swap
- KTVE: Louisiana gun groups weigh in on bill that would legalize permitless conceal carry
- The Advocate: Advocates for senior citizens, foster parents ask Louisiana's lawmakers for funding

Pivotal GR Solutions is the sponsor of "News You Can Use." Pivotal is a full-service government relations firm that works collaboratively with its clients to strategize, outline and develop a comprehensive action plan for issues management.



LMOGA

LOUISIANA MID-CONTINENT
OIL AND GAS ASSOCIATION

👑 PRESENTS 👑

PAST IS PROLOGUE

A standing feature of LaPolitics Weekly that
seeks to apply *yesterday to today* – and *tomorrow*

The Fastest *Sine Die* Ever

In the summer of 1959, every news outlet in Louisiana was filled with reports of the daily activities of then-Gov. **Earl K. Long**. Having just obtained a highly-publicized release from a state mental hospital in Mandeville, Long made headlines for soon afterward cavorting with a Bourbon Street stripper, **Blaze Starr**, before embarking on a wild vacation in the western states.

According to historian **Jack McGuire** in his book, *Win the Race or Die Trying: Uncle Earl's Last Hurrah*, Long had stayed in touch with legislators during his vacation, mailing his lawmakers everything from postcards to cases of cantaloupes. Some, like Sen. **Sixty Rayburn** of Bogalusa, even joined the governor for parts of his multi-week trip.

Long had been institutionalized during the regular session of the Legislature, which had become bogged down in a debate over voting rights and racial integration. Because the governor was out of pocket, many of his favored bills had been voted down or died in committee.

Returning to Louisiana refreshed, Long called a special session of the Legislature to enact a litany of bills that he wanted passed. Included in his call were routine measures such as taxes, higher ed and local districts. Then there was a section asking to review the statutes around the involuntary commitment of a person to a mental institution.

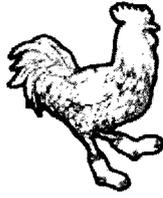
Legislators, meanwhile, were tired of the governor's behavior and unenthusiastic about going into a special session with elections only a few months away. Gauging the mood of their members, Long's floor leaders tried to have him call off the session, but the governor ignored their pleas.

When lawmakers gaveled in at 5 p.m. on August 10, they made quick work of the session.

The House's first order of business was to swear in a new member. As soon as that was done, another member, Rep. **Ben Holt**, moved to adjourn sine die. The motion passed easily and the Senate concurred within minutes, ending the shortest special session — about 10 minutes total — in Louisiana's history.

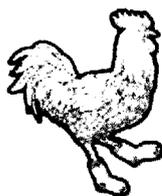
Gov. Long made his way over to the Senate chamber and addressed lawmakers as they headed home. Despite the rebuke of his special session, he made light of the situation, telling members, "So you might say now that you have had an opportunity to see a crazy governor."

The Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association is the sponsor of "Past is Prologue." LMOGA was formed in 1919 and represents the all aspects of petroleum industry operating in Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico.



Field Notes

- The Louisiana Political Hall of Fame has announced its 2021 inductees and award winners: Sen. **Greg Tarver**, former Sen. **Robert Adley**, former Congressman **Jim McCrery**, late LABI and PAR head **Ed Steimel**, the Young Turks, the Jackson (**Lydia & Alphonse**) family, **Lou Gehrig Burnett** and late Congressman-elect **Luke Letlow**. The induction ceremony will be in Shreveport this year, on June 26. For more info and tickets visit www.lapolmushof.com or call (318) 628-5928.
- Via LHA: "[In this video](#), Senator **Regina Ashford Barrow** recalls how COVID-19 took the life of her spouse, and she thanks the employees of Lane Regional Medical Center for making it easy for community residents to receive the COVID Vaccine.."
- House Health and Welfare voted 12-1 this week to approve HB 391 by Speaker Pro Tem **Tanner Magee** to make way for the full flower in Louisiana's medical marijuana program. Rep. **Robby Carter** voted no.
- Gov. **John Bel Edwards** said this week he does not support legislation that would eliminate concealed carry permits.
- The **Steve Carter** Literacy Program (HB 85 by Rep. **Scott McKnight**) was advanced this week by the House Ed Committee.
- House Ed also advanced HB 409 by Rep. **Aimee Freeman** to update how colleges handle sexual assault allegations.
- The Criminal Justice Committee unanimously passed HB 54 by Rep. **Rick Edmonds** to create the crime of adoption deception.



They Said It

"My instructor claims I'm the better shot."

—**Susan East Nelson**, executive director of the Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families, explaining that both her and her husband have received firearm training

"I forgot to call him. I'm sure he's okay with this."

—Sen. **Pat Connick**, referencing former Senate President **John Alario**, on legislation changing a highway name in Westwego

"I always just end up paying the sticker price."

—Sen. **Patrick McMath**, discussing new car sale negotiations

"And we appreciate you, Sen. McMath."

—Louisiana Automobile Dealers Association President **Will Green**, in response

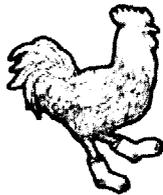
"There was a lot of testimony today. That's why I tell everyone I hate this committee. Everyone has kids and everyone has an opinion about education. I could have stayed in bed this morning. There are no easy decisions on this committee."

—Sen. **Bodi White**, drawing laughter in the Senate Education Committee

"It's toast."

—Rep. **Beau Beaulieu**, describing the centralized sales tax amendment if there's ultimately no accompanying statutory legislation

The sponsor of "They Said It," Top Drawer Strategies, is a full-service government relations, political consulting, public relations and media production firm with a record of success managing budgets large and small. Learn more at www.TopDrawerStrategies.com.



THE END.

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States

recrequest

From: LEGISuite
Sent: Saturday, April 24, 2021 2:52 PM
To: House Fiscal Note; Edmonds, Rep. Rick (Chamber Laptop)
Subject: FN - 21RS_HB54_E

Fiscal Note - HB54 Engrossed has been received.

It can be read at <http://www.legis.state.la.us/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1216996>

The author is Edmonds

The drafter is Becnel, Sadie

recrequest

From: Edmonds, Rep. Rick (District Office)
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 12:10 PM
To: Rick Edmonds
Subject: FW: Vote Yes to HB 54 and Support Adoption!

Brian Davis

Legislative Assistant
Representative Rick Edmonds
edmondsr@legis.la.gov
[facebook.com/rickedmondsla](https://www.facebook.com/rickedmondsla)
twitter.com/rickedmondsla

From: Louisiana Right to Life <info@prolifelouisiana.org>
Reply-To: "info@prolifelouisiana.org" <info@prolifelouisiana.org>
Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 12:07 PM
To: "Edmonds, Rep. Rick (District Office)" <edmondsr@legis.la.gov>
Subject: Vote Yes to HB 54 and Support Adoption!



Vote Yes on HB 54 and Support Adoption!

Dear Representative Edmonds,

Louisiana Right to Life urges you to vote in favor of HB 54, the Adoption Deception Act, by Rep. Rick Edmonds.

Louisiana Right to Life recognizes the legitimate and documented issue of adoption deception, which is why we wholeheartedly support HB54. Sadly, too many good couples seeking to adopt a child have been deceived by bad actors claiming to be pregnant, or they may be pregnant, but are receiving funds from multiple adoption agencies or attorneys representing separate couples at the same time without disclosing this information. We hope HB 54 furthers the goal of ending the deception and protecting prospective adoptive couples.

Louisiana Right to Life since 1970 has been a strong proponent of adoption as a beautiful alternative to abortion. We celebrate the courage and selflessness of both birth mothers and adoptive couples, the overwhelming majority of which are honest people seeking to do the best thing for the baby.

As an organization, an important goal of ours is to promote adoption as a viable option. Unfortunately, as reported by the National Council on Adoption, infant adoption is largely unpopular with only 0.2% of pregnancy outcomes resulting in infant placement. We don't want in anyway to dissuade birth mothers from placing their infant for adoption by propagating fear that if a birth mother changes her mind within the appropriate timeframe she could face criminal penalties. We believe the committee amendment that was added to the bill is important to further this goal.

We applaud Rep. Edmonds on his continued work to enhance and promote adoption in Louisiana.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

For a Pro-Life Louisiana.

Benjamin Clapper
Executive Director
504-228-4273
bclapper@prolifelouisiana.org

Angie Thomas, J.D.
Associate Director
504-296-0323
angie@prolifelouisiana.org

Sarah Zagorski
Adoption Director
970-817-1353
sarah@prolifelouisiana.org

[Watch our "I Lived on Parker Avenue" documentary on adoption](#)

recrequest

From: Louisiana Right to Life
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 12:08 PM
To: Edmonds, Rep. Rick (District Office)
Subject: Vote Yes to HB 54 and Support Adoption!



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sarah@prolifelouisiana.org

Watch our "I Lived on Parker Avenue" documentary on adoption

recrequest

From: Terri Odom
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 3:30 PM
To: Edmonds, Rep. Rick (District Office)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: HB #54

Dear Representative Edmonds,

I am Terri Hoover Odom and I have copied [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] on this email.

I am an adoption attorney in West Monroe and have been practicing adoption law since 1989. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. We do all kinds of adoptions in Louisiana and are very interested in providing insight on all adoption issues. I would really appreciate an opportunity to be included on all adoption legislation as adoption is 100% of our practice. I would love to set a time for us to chat about HB#54.

If you are interested in the perspective of an adoption law practitioner, please get back with me as soon as possible.

respectfully, Terri Hoover Odom

ps: Please REPLY ALL :)



Terri Hoover Odom Attorney at Law

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500 North 7th Street West Monroe, LA 71291

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☎(318) 323-1122

🌐www.odomsaska.com

✉terriodom@odomsaska.com